

The original documents are located in Box C12, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 2/5/1975 (2)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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2-5-75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Kasser

Interesting story by
Chief. Your gang and
fairly mentioned as for
good reason.
MKF.

Profile

by Cindy Lamont

Relatively few people in Vail had much of a chance to be with President Gerald Ford while he was here for the Christmas holidays. Even fewer actually skied from day to day with Mr. Ford. Among those special few was Vail Police Chief Gary Wall who acted as the local liaison of law enforcement on a day to day basis with the President.

"The Secret Service are not peace officers in Colorado. Therefore, they would not enforce state laws, like disturbing the peace, for example," the blond, 33-year-old police chief said in explaining his role with the Presidential group. "If someone was verbally abusive to the President in a lift line, or something like that, I was there to enforce those state regulations. When we came down the mountain or when there were a lot of people, I wanted to be there in case anything against state codes happened."

"I also coordinated Town of Vail personnel, like Pete Burnett (superintendent of streets and roads) for example, if for some reason the President had to be evacuated quickly," Wall added.

With the exception of a couple of days, Wall was a constant member of the Presidential ski group. Others in the group were members of the ski patrol, his ski instructor Denny Hoeger, Secret Servicemen, and personal friends.

Four Hours Skiing
On a Typical Day

"There was not a lot of skiing," Wall answered to a question about the amount of time Mr.

Ford spent on the slopes. "On a typical day the President would ski from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Then, after skiing I would get with the (SS) agent running the detail and advance work for the President's activities that night, checking the places he was going to go."

With the exception of one night, when the Secret Service gave Wall and his officers "the night off," Vail Police were always around controlling crowds. "The biggest crowd was the night the President went to the Red Lion. The people were very cooperative, however, and when we asked them to move back they did. They weren't any problem," Wall stated, obviously pleased that no incidents occurred to blemish the President's Vail visit.

Laughing over the *New York Times* description of him as "Vail's shaggy-haired police chief," Wall said he's noticed two results from Vail's national press exposure. One is an increase in employment applications from people who want to join the Vail police force. A second result is an increase in requests for Vail Police shoulder patches from collectors at a rate of about 2-3 a week rather than the former rate of 2-3 requests per month. Otherwise, he feels there has been no significant change for Vail as far as the police department is concerned.

Wall was not so sure about the possible effect on Vail, in general, from national press coverage during the Presidential visit. "There were several inquiries made about the President's whereabouts while he was here," Wall acknowledged. "But it's hard to

Vail Police Chief Gary Wall —
The President's Shadow

tell if the people came because of the President, or just to ski. The town was full both last Christmas and this Christmas. I don't know if the President brought them this year."

Impressed With SS

Aside from Mr. Ford himself, Wall was very impressed with the Secret Service and its mode of operation. "I got to know some of them (SS) pretty well. I happen to be very impressed with the Secret Service. I like the kind of people they attract. They are good people, and seem to exercise a degree of ingenuity in assessing a situation. They use

good common sense about what they do. And they did not try to come in and take over the town. They always let us know what they were doing, and we worked together."

Although he admires the SS style, Wall admits he would never want to be a Secret Serviceman. "They are away from home too much. It would not be conducive to family life," says Wall, a confirmed family man who tried to spend as much time as possible with his wife, Sue, and their son, Theron.

It was the day the President left Vail that Wall remembers

best. Mr. Ford invited the entire police force over to the Dick Bass residence where he was staying. He spent some 20 minutes with the group, posing for pictures and shaking hands.

"A Warm Individual"
Says Wall

"He's a really warm individual," Wall said, recalling the President with his officers. "His thanks for our help were sincere, and not a formality. He really seemed to appreciate what we had done."

"It was really fun to see the guys with him," Wall added. "They were really pleased."

"It was an enjoyable, interesting experience having the President here. I am very pleased with the way the whole trip was handled. It was very smooth. There was not any problem or incident worthy of mentioning," Wall said, adding most times when a group would form waiting for the President to appear, they would cheer him when they saw him.

"I would not trade my experience for anything. There are very few chiefs of police in the country who have had the opportunity to have this experience," Wall commented, noting most former Presidents' vacation spots were sanctuaries and not within a community.

Chief Wall is looking forward to a return visit by the President next Christmas. Although the work won't be any easier, the Vail Police Dept. will have the experience of one Presidential visit already under its belt.

Even when Mr. Ford was boarding his plane to fly back to Washington, Wall remembers his thoughtfulness and sincere appreciation for the Vail Police Department's work. "Chief, thanks a lot. Tell the guys thanks too," were Ford's parting words, according to Wall.

Bighorn Zoning

From Page - 28

Lots 6 and 7 and block 3 of Gore Creek Meadows and the Gore Creek Subdivision carry an interim zoning of R. Staff advisors have suggested the planning commission consider an RC zone for this land, to better conform with the current development. Included in this area are the Wren House apartments with 59 units per acre (16 units on .273 acres in one building) and the Alpenglo with 22 units per acre (6 units on .268 acres in one building).

Although an RC zone would make both the Wren House and the Alpenglo non-conforming, staff advisors felt it would be better rather than spot zoning to meet the density of the completed developments. If the Wren House were zoned according to current use, even a high density multiple family (HDMF) zone, the highest density allowed under multiple residential zoning, would not be great enough. Too, a zoning of HDMF in the middle of a residential area could completely change the character of the area when undeveloped lots began to build.

Under RC zoning, if the Wren House and Alpenglo were destroyed over 50 percent, they would have to be rebuilt according to the restrictions of the RC zone, unless some special variances were granted.

An R zone, such as exists in interim zoning, has been suggested for Vail Meadows, fil-

ing 1. The far eastern undeveloped portion of Bighorn II known as Vail Meadows, Inc. is recommended to retain its interim zoning of SFR, and the adjacent summer recreation area covenanted by Eagle County Development Corp. should retain its agricultural (A) zoning.

The undeveloped, resubdivided Vail Meadows, 2nd filing, has been recommended for an A zone due to environmental problems with access so near the stream and steepness in excess of 40 percent. Owner of the land, Dave Elmore, has requested R zoning.

Town Engineer Kent Rose reported that as a member of

Eagle County's technical review committee, he had opposed the resubdivision of this land due to access and slope. However, the resubdivision was approved by the three county commissioners. "The county commissioners have gotten out of it. They have made their commitment to the developer, and it's up to us to work with the individual land owners," Rose said bitterly, referring to a county commissioner who said that any land owner has a right to use his land as he sees fit.

Following two hearings before the town council, Bighorn I zoning will be finalized March 17.

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Lodge South Condominium

Three bedroom, three bath unit facing the mountain. Located on the 4th floor of the Lodge at Vail.

Two bedroom, three bath unit with west view. Located in the Lodge at Vail on the 4th floor.

Lodge Apartments Condominium

Two bedroom, two bath townhouse with west view. Located on the 4th floor of the Lodge at Vail.

Riva Ridge South Condominium

Two bedroom, three bath top floor unit. Northeast view toward the Gore.

Two bedroom, two bath top floor unit with northeast view toward the Gore.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK KEISER

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached newspaper article was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- Interesting story by Chief. Your gang is favorably mentioned and for good reason.

cc: Don Rumsfeld